

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-6 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 7-14 as set forth below. Entry is respectfully requested. The status of each claim is set forth below in accordance with the Revised Format of Amendments.

Claims 1-6 (Cancelled)

7. (New) A method for electrically and mechanically connecting at least two circuit boards, each of the at least two circuit boards having one or more wiring patterns thereon, each wiring pattern including a plurality of wiring portions, at least one wiring portion on each circuit board being a combined signal line and power line, the method comprising mechanically and electrically connecting the at least two circuit boards together such that:

a connector couples a plurality of the wiring portions of one of the at least two circuit boards to respective wiring portions of another of the at least two circuit boards;

a screw couples the at least two circuit boards together and electrically connects a combined signal line and power line on one of the at least two circuit boards to a combined signal line and power line on another of the at least two circuit boards.

8. (New) A method according to claim 7, wherein the screw is formed of electrically conductive material.

9. (New) A printed circuit board unit comprising:

at least two circuit boards, each of the at least two circuit boards having one or more wiring patterns thereon, each wiring pattern including a plurality of wiring portions, at least one wiring portion on each circuit board being a combined signal line and power line;

a connector operable to couple a plurality of the wiring portions of one of the at least two circuit boards to respective wiring portions of another of the at least two circuit boards;
and

a screw operable to couple the at least two circuit boards together and electrically connect a combined signal line and power line on one of the at least two circuit boards to a combined signal line and power line on another of the at least two circuit boards.

10. (New) A printed circuit board unit according to claim 9, wherein the screw is formed of electrically conductive material.

11. (New) A method for electrically and mechanically connecting at least two circuit boards, each of the at least two circuit boards having one or more wiring patterns thereon, each wiring pattern including a plurality of wiring portions, at least one wiring portion on each circuit board being a signal line and at least one wiring portion on each circuit board being a power line, the method comprising mechanically and electrically connecting the pair of circuit boards together such that:

a connector couples a plurality of the wiring portions of one of the at least two circuit boards to respective wiring portions of another of the at least two circuit boards;

a plurality of screws couple the at least two circuit boards together and electrically connects at least one signal line and one power line on one of the at least two circuit boards to a respective signal line and power line on another of the at least two circuit boards.

12. (New) A method accordingly to claim 11, wherein the screw is formed of electrically conductive material.

13. (New) A printed circuit board unit comprising:

at least two circuit boards, each of the at least two circuit boards having one or more wiring patterns thereon, each wiring pattern including a plurality of wiring portions, at least one wiring portion on each circuit board being a signal line and at least one wiring portion on each circuit board being a power line;

a connector operable to couple a plurality of the wiring portions of one of the at least two circuit boards to respective wiring portions of another of the at least two circuit boards;
and

a plurality of screws operable to couple the at least two circuit boards together and electrically connect at least one signal line and one power line on one of the at least two circuit boards to a respective signal line and power line on the other of the circuit boards.

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14. (New) A printed circuit board unit according to claim 13, wherein the screw is formed of electrically conductive material.